

CITY OF MESA
HUMAN RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (HRAB)
Ad Hoc COMMUNITY AND EDUCATION PROJECT TEAM

Wednesday, January 18, 2012
20 E. Main St., Room 170
6:00 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Denise Heap
Rory Gilbert
Frank Johnson
James May
Orchidia Peterson
Dean Tun Lin Moe

MEMBERS ABSENT

STAFF PRESENT

Ruth Giese

GUESTS

1. Selection of committee chair and/or co-chairs.

A motion was made by Ms. Heap to nominate Frank Johnson as co-chair. Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. A motion was made by Mr. Johnson to nominate Denise Heap as co-chair. Mr. May seconded the motion. A motion was made by Ms. Heap to vote on the co-chair positions. Mr. May seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

2. Items from citizens present.

There were no citizens who requested to speak to the Ad Hoc Community and Education Project Team.

3. Discuss and provide direction on disability issues.

The project team discussed how Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has disabled many veterans and other individuals. Ms. Peterson offered to find a speaker on this subject to present at the February HRAB meeting. Ms. Peterson made a motion to have the issue of PTSD presented to the HRAB. Mr. Johnson seconded the motions. The motion carried unanimously.

4. Discuss and provide direction on request from public to the Human Relations Advisory Board to review and recommend that the City of Mesa consider Domestic Partnership benefits for employees.

The project team discussed the request made by the Mesa Police Association to look at the issue of adding domestic partner benefits for city employees. It was suggested that the City's benefits manager give a presentation to the HRAB, questions posed would include:

- What benefits exist for unmarried couples
- What are the costs and other variables associated with offering this benefit to employees
- Has the City considered offering benefit to domestic partners
- Do other cities in the Phoenix Metro area offer domestic partner benefits
- Has there been any impact on hiring because the benefit is not available

Ms. Gilbert reminded the team that the City Council should be notified that an employee asked the HRAB to research this topic so that they are made aware. A motion was made by Mr. May that the City's benefits manager be invited to provide information about domestic benefits to the HRAB at its February meeting. Mr. Johnson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Discuss initial planning for neighborhood discussions of diversity issues leading to a more tolerant, civil community.

The project team discussed planning a community dialogue that might take a place on a Saturday morning. The team discussed possible locations and topics. A motion was made by Mr. May that the project team continue further discussion and planning for a community dialogue event. Mr. Tun Lin Moe seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

6. Discuss February 4, 2012 East Valley Regional Unity Walk outreach and t-shirts.

Ms. Heap announced that the Mesa Police Association agreed to sponsor the Unity Walk t-shirts this year. The team discussed ways to promote the event and also discussed extending an invitation to City Council. Ms. Heap agreed to attend a Council Study Session to invite the Mayor & Council to the Unity Walk.

7. Discuss future agenda items, meeting dates, announcements, other housekeeping.

Ms. Heap suggested that the project team consider showing a bullying video at the February HRAB meeting. A motion was made by Mr. May that a bullying video be shown at the February HRAB meeting. Ms. Peterson seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously. The project team scheduled its next meeting for February 7, 2012 at 6:00pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ruth Giese

Diversity Program Administrator